

Division of Mental Health Services News Bulletin

1st Edition

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The Division of Mental Health Services (DMHS) is pleased to announce the release of the Home to Recovery - CEPP Plan. Consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court Olmstead decision, this document describes DMHS' plans to decrease the length of stay in state psychiatric hospitals through the development of supportive housing and other community supports. The Home to Recovery - CEPP Plan can be read at the following link: http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/CEPP_1_23_08_FINAL.pdf.

Over the next six years, DMHS' goal is to create annually 200 new supportive housing opportunities for patients ready for discharge and 100 new supportive housing opportunities for those in the community at-risk of hospitalization and/or homelessness. These new opportunities will result in shorter lengths of stay for patients on Conditional Extension Pending Placement (CEPP) and fewer admissions to the state hospitals.

CEPP status occurs when a person no longer meets civil commitment criteria and remains in the hospital until an appropriate community placement is available. By focusing on the complex needs of people on CEPP, DMHS will create community-based options more consistent with the needs of individuals living with mental illness.

The Home to Recovery - CEPP Plan is consistent with DMHS' overall transformation activities since 2006 that are yielding positive results. The census at each of the hospitals has decreased due to funding avail-

ability, strategic planning, the commendable efforts of our provider community, and improving treatment approaches in our state hospitals. Ancora Psychiatric Hospital's overall census has dropped below 700 for the first time in seven years and Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital's census has never been lower.

Despite an acute shortage of affordable housing in New Jersey, DMHS has successfully created nearly 1,200 supportive housing opportunities in the past two years for patients being discharged from the state hospitals and those already in the community who were at-risk of hospitalization or homelessness. Supportive housing is recognized as a best practice approach and produces better outcomes and consumer satisfaction than other models of housing.



DMHS' commitment to reducing the state hospital census and CEPP length of stay is one critical step toward facilitating the recovery of people with mental illness in addition to improving the overall quality of care within New Jersey's state hospital system.

For further information on the Division of Mental Health Services transformation activities, go to http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/wellness_recovery.htm.